GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:350
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2009
OPIUM CULTIVATION
Punia Shri P.L.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the genesis and salient features of opium licensing policy;

(b) the number of licences issued to farmers, State-wise;

(c) whether any damage to opium crop has occurred due to natural causes like hailstorm, drought etc. during the last three years and the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken or proposed to be taken thereon;

(e) whether proposals for reimplantation of traditional opium buds have been received by the Union Government during the recent time; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken in each case?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) Rule 8 of the NDPS Rules empowers the District Opium Officer to issue licences for cultivation of opium poppy subject to the General Conditions relating to the grant of licence notified by the Central Government. These General Conditions have been being notified every year and are commonly referred to as `Opium Policy`. The policy lays down the eligibility criteria for obtaining the licence, conditions of licence, maximum area which each licence can get, condonable limits in case of excess cultivation, forewarning clauses etc.

(b) The number of farmers licensed during the last 3 years is as follows:

Name of Unit	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Madhya Pradesh	34151	2830	27462
Rajasthan	28233	1844	17337
Uttar Pradesh	274	6	22
Total	62658	4680	44821

(c) & (d) Whenever the crop is damaged due to natural calamities, farmers have an option to get their crops uprooted before commencing lancing under departmental supervision.Due to natural causes, an area of 246 ha during the crop year 2006-07, 1933 ha in 2007-08 and 1448 ha in 2008-09 was uprooted under departmental supervision. The crop for the year 2009-10 is being sown.

(e) & (f) No proposal for reimplantation of traditional opium buds has been received by the Union Government.